

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no ☒

Property Name: Bowen Cemetery Inventory Number: WO-565

Address: Newark Road Between 8432 and 8450 Newark Road Historic district: yes ☒ no

City: Newark Zip Code: 21841 County: Worcester

USGS Quadrangle(s): Ninepin Branch

Property Owner: Bowen ME Church of Newark Trustees Tax Account ID Number: 000781

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 123 Tax Map Number: 40

Project: Historic Structures Survey along US-113 Agency: Maryland SHA

Agency Prepared By: Hardlines Design Company

Preparer's Name: Roy Hampton Date Prepared: 9/27/2007

Documentation is presented in: Compliance Report and Historic Context for Proposed Highway Improvements-U.S. 113: Five Mile Branch Road to Massey Branch

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*

Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: yes Listed: yes

Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The building description and significance statement will be found in the attached MIHP form.

NRHP Recommendation: Not eligible

Criterion A: The cemetery has some associations with the overall history of Newark, although as a burial ground it was not the site of any important events and does not appear to reflect any significant historical trends. The cemetery does not represent a distinctive ethnic group that was highly influential in the area. Bowen Cemetery is also not particularly old for this area. The cemetery is recommended not eligible under Criterion A.

Criterion B: The cemetery is named after the town's Bowen family, but this association does not appear to be sufficiently strong to warrant NRHP eligibility. The cemetery is not the burial place of anyone of major historical importance. The cemetery is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

Criterion C: The cemetery is a common grid-plan burial ground and does not have any significant landscape or layout features. The

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Tim Tuleund ✓  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

6/5/08  
Date

6/9/08  
Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

WO-565

Bowen Cemetery

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markers in the cemetery are not outstanding examples of cemetery art, and so it is recommended not eligible under Criterion C.

Criterion D: The above-ground portion of the cemetery did not appear to have any potential to yield additional information about mortuary practices or other historical subjects. The Bowen Cemetery is therefore recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:   \_\_\_ A   \_\_\_ B   \_\_\_ C   \_\_\_ D   Considerations:   \_\_\_ A   \_\_\_ B   \_\_\_ C   \_\_\_ D   \_\_\_ E   \_\_\_ F   \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Name of Property:** Bowen Cemetery  
**MIHP Number:** WO-565  
**Location:** Between 8432 and 8450 Newark Road  
**Town / Vicinity:** Newark  
**Date of Construction:** ca. 1869  
**Access:** ☐ Public ☒ Private

The Bowen Cemetery is located on a 2.316 acre tract in Newark, Maryland. The cemetery's burials are arranged in a system of straight rows. The earliest marker observed dated to 1869, and burials have continued up to the present. The largest number of burials date to the late nineteenth century and from about 1900–1930. Most of the markers were relatively modest granite and marble headstones, with a few examples of small obelisks and crosses also present. Overall, no outstanding examples of cemetery art were found.

The cemetery has minor significance in the area of social history as one of only a few cemeteries in the town of Newark. The earliest grave observed in the cemetery dated to 1869. The cemetery is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Under Criterion A the cemetery was not the site of any important events and does not appear to reflect any significant historical trends. The cemetery does not represent a distinctive ethnic group that was highly influential in the area. Bowen Cemetery is also not particularly old or early in date for this area. Under Criterion B the cemetery's association with the Bowen family does not appear to be sufficiently strong to warrant individual NRHP eligibility. The cemetery is not the burial place of anyone of major historical importance. Under Criterion C the cemetery is a common grid-plan burial ground and does not have any significant landscape or layout features. The markers in the cemetery are not outstanding examples of cemetery art. Under Criterion D the above-ground portion of the cemetery did not appear to have any potential to yield additional information about mortuary practices or other historical subjects.

The cemetery is currently owned by Bowen Methodist Episcopal Church trustees. The Bowen family, which the cemetery is named for, owned several of the early land patents in the county. Jethro Bowen was involved in the establishment of an early Methodist chapel in the area near Newark. Bowen genealogy texts do not seem to indicate which Bowen family member donated land for the cemetery.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-565

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bowen Cemetery

other

## 2. Location

street and number Between 8432 and 8450 Newark Rd. not for publication

city, town Newark vicinity

county Worcester

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bowen ME Church of Newark Trustees

street and number PO Box 36 telephone

city, town Newark state MD zip code 21841

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber 177 folio 15

city, town Snow Hill tax map 40 tax parcel 123 tax ID number 000781

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☒ Other: Compliance Report and Historic context for Proposed Highway Improvements-U.S. 113: Five Mile Branch Road to Massey Branch

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<b>Resource Count</b>
			Contributing Noncontributing
			0 0 buildings
			0 0 sites
			0 0 structures
			50 0 objects
			50 0 Total
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			0

## 7. Description

Inventory No. WO-565

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Bowen Cemetery is located in the small town of Newark, Maryland in Worcester County. The cemetery is located on the south side of Newark Road between 8432 and 8450 Newark Road. The cemetery is located on parcel 123, map 40. The parcel is irregular and encompasses 2.316 acres. An asphalt road follows a U-shaped course through the main portion of the cemetery, which has no notable trees or other landscape features. A second asphalt road loops around the rear portion of the cemetery, which does not appear to be in use. The cemetery is surrounded by farmland and single family residences associated with the town of Newark.

The Bowen Cemetery's burials are arranged in a system of straight rows. The earliest marker observed dated to 1869, and burials have continued up to the present. The largest number of burials date to the late nineteenth century and from about 1900-1930. Most of the markers were relatively modest granite and marble headstones, with a few examples of small obelisks and crosses also present. A few stones had modest floral carvings but overall, no outstanding examples of cemetery art were found. No trees or shrubs are planted on the cemetery grounds, but a few trees are located around the perimeter of the cemetery. The cemetery is currently owned by the trustees of the Bowen United Methodist Church.

The cemetery is associated with Bowen United Methodist Church. The cemetery and the church are not adjacent. The cemetery is located on the south side of Newark Road whereas the church is located on the north side of Newark Road, west of the cemetery. The current Bowen United Methodist Church was constructed in 1899. The Bowen Cemetery dates to 1869 or earlier suggesting the cemetery was originally associated with an earlier church building. On an 1877 atlas depicting Newark, a Methodist Episcopal Church is located on the south side of Newark Road near the present day location of Bowen Cemetery. Bowen Cemetery was probably originally adjacent to this earlier Methodist Episcopal Church.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. WO-565

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates ca. 1869

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary of Significance

The cemetery has minor significance in the area of social history as one of only a few cemeteries in the town of Newark. The earliest grave observed in the cemetery dated to 1869.

The cemetery is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Under Criterion A the cemetery has some associations with the overall history of Newark, although as a burial ground, it was not the site of any important events and does not appear to reflect any significant historical trends. The cemetery does not represent a distinctive ethnic group that was highly influential in the area. Bowen Cemetery is also not particularly old or early in date for this area. Under Criterion B the cemetery's association with the Bowen family does not appear to be sufficiently strong to warrant individual NRHP eligibility. The cemetery is not the burial place of anyone of major historical importance. Under Criterion C the cemetery is a common grid-plan burial ground and does not have any significant landscape or layout features. The markers in the cemetery are not outstanding examples of cemetery art. Under Criterion D the above-ground portion of the cemetery did not appear to have any potential to yield additional information about mortuary practices or other historical subjects.

### Historic Context

#### Newark

Newark began as a cluster of development at the crossing of two roads, Newark Road, which once connected the town to Snow Hill and Berlin, and a second road that is now known on the south side of Newark Road as Langmaid Road, and on the north side as Patey Woods Road. The beginnings of a village at the intersection can be traced to the late eighteenth century, with Langmaid Road providing access to commercial landings on Chincoteague Bay. In 1793, the site was part of a land tract known as Yorkshire.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Paul B. Touart, *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*, (Snow Hill: Worcester County Library, 1992) 298.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-565

Name Bowen Cemetery  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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It is thought that by 1800, the intersection Newark Road and Langmaid Road probably contained a meeting house, a few dwellings, a blacksmith shop, and a tavern.<sup>2</sup> The earliest map found that names the town is an 1839 anonymous map of Maryland, which labels the settlement as "Newark." The Newark name may have originated from an early name for the town's Methodist Episcopal Church that was named New Ark of the Covenant Church.<sup>3</sup> Another account states that resident A.P. Bowen claimed, in the early twentieth century, that the name had come from a large wood frame building constructed at the town center that was nicknamed "the new ark" because of its resemblance to the biblical Noah's ark.<sup>4</sup>

On an 1877 Lake Griffing atlas, Newark contained one hotel, three retail stores, and three buildings marked G.S. Richardson and Company. Single family residences extended southwest on Newark Road, to the tracks of the Breakwater, Frankford and Worcester Railroad. On Patey Woods Road, single-family house development also extends up to the railroad tracks. The town is shown with about 20 houses, the one-room Schoolhouse No. 3 on Newark Road, and a Methodist Episcopal church. A railroad depot is shown, close to the location of the current 1910-1911 Queponco Station, and a building labeled S.S. Mill was located along the tracks south of the depot building.

Currently, the center of the town features few pre-1900 buildings. This is due to a severe fire in 1905 that destroyed the town's millinery shop, Odd Fellows' Hall, and several houses.<sup>5</sup> In 1918, the Home Bank of Newark was organized, and operated out of a one-room wood frame building, and in 1919, a brick building replaced the previous frame building.<sup>6</sup> Industrial development in twentieth century Newark remained very limited in comparison to development in the Worcester County communities of Snow Hill, Pocomoke City, and Berlin.

Most of the existing single-family houses in Newark today were built from about 1900-1930, according to Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation records.<sup>7</sup> Construction in the town slowed during the 1930s depression and World War II.<sup>8</sup> In the post-World War II economic expansion of the 1950s and 1960s, several Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch style houses were built on vacant lots in the developed section of Newark, or on the town's outer fringes.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Reginald Truitt and Millard Les Callette, *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia* (Snow Hill, Maryland: Worcester County Historical Society, 1977), 96.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 96.

<sup>6</sup> Board of Education of Worcester County. *Worcester County: Past and Present, part VII, Communities of Worcester County*, (Worcester County Board of Education: 1956), 26-27.

<sup>7</sup> Truitt and Les Callette, *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia*, 96.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 339.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-565

Name Bowen Cemetery  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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In 1956, work began on a bypass road that took US 113 around the south side of Newark, and routed highway traffic away from Newark's central intersection. Today, Newark is mostly residential, with the post office and Mercantile Peninsula Bank buildings being the main non-residential buildings at the town center. Newark also features an RV sales and repair business and a lumber firm, located near the railroad tracks on Patey Woods Road.

### *Bowen Cemetery: Newark Road*

The Bowen Cemetery is associated with the Bowen United Methodist Church congregation whose origins go back to 1788, when Jethro Bowen built a Methodist chapel on his Queponco area land, inspired by a sermon by Freeborn Garrison. The Bowen Family traces its Worcester County history back to the birth of John Bowen in 1687. The family owned several of the early land patents in the county, including Queponco, Bowen's Venture, and Bowen's Right.<sup>9</sup> While it is not known how the cemetery or the church got their names it is probable the Bowen family donated the land on which the church and cemetery were built to the congregation, so the church and cemetery were named in their honor.

The earliest grave marker observed in the cemetery dated to 1869. However, considering the first Bowen Methodist Episcopal Church was established at Newark in 1840, it is probable there are earlier markers in the cemetery whose dates are no longer visible due to deterioration or weathering.<sup>10</sup> Based on an 1866 map of the area this first Bowen Church was located on the east side of town on the south side of Newark Road in the location of Bowen cemetery. The church appears at the same location on an 1877 atlas surrounded by a small church grounds. While the cemetery is not specifically marked on either the 1866 or the 1877 maps it was probably included as part of the church grounds.

In 1899 a new Bowen Church was constructed on the north side of Newark Road, west of the previous site. It is not known why the first Bowen church was abandoned in favor of a new building; perhaps the original building was damaged in a fire, it fell to ruin because of poor maintenance or the congregation may have outgrown the building, but whatever the reason there is no visible evidence of the first church in the cemetery. The cemetery is not marked on 1902, 1935, or 1950 maps of Newark, but these maps are rather general so the absence of the cemetery is not surprising. The cemetery does appear on a 1966 map which is the first time the cemetery is individually marked on a map. The cemetery continues to be in use for the nearby Bowen United Methodist Church.

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<sup>9</sup> Genealogy and History of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Inc, "Bowen Family Genealogy" [ghotes.net/bowen](http://ghotes.net/bowen) (accessed June 20, 2007).

<sup>10</sup> Board of Education, *Worcester County*, 27.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WO-565

- Board of Education of Worcester County. *Worcester County: Past and Present, part VII, Communities of Worcester County*. 1956, on file at Worcester County Room, Snow Hill Public Library.
- Genealogy and History of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Inc. "Bowen Family Genealogy" [ghotes.net/bowen](http://ghotes.net/bowen) (accessed June 20, 2007).
- Lewis, J. Frank. *The Maryland Directory*. Baltimore: J. Frank Lewis and Company, 1878.
- Touart, Paul B. *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*. Snow Hill: Worcester County Library, 1992.
- Truitt, Reginald and Millard Les Callette. *Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia*. Snow Hill, Maryland: Worcester County Historical Society, 1977.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>2.316 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>2.316 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Ninepin Branch</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Bowen Cemetery is bounded by parcel 123, map 40 of Worcester County. The current boundary and the historical boundary for the property are identical, as the property boundaries for the cemetery have not changed. The boundary is large enough to encompass the entire cemetery and corresponds to the historical boundary of the property. See attached parcel map.

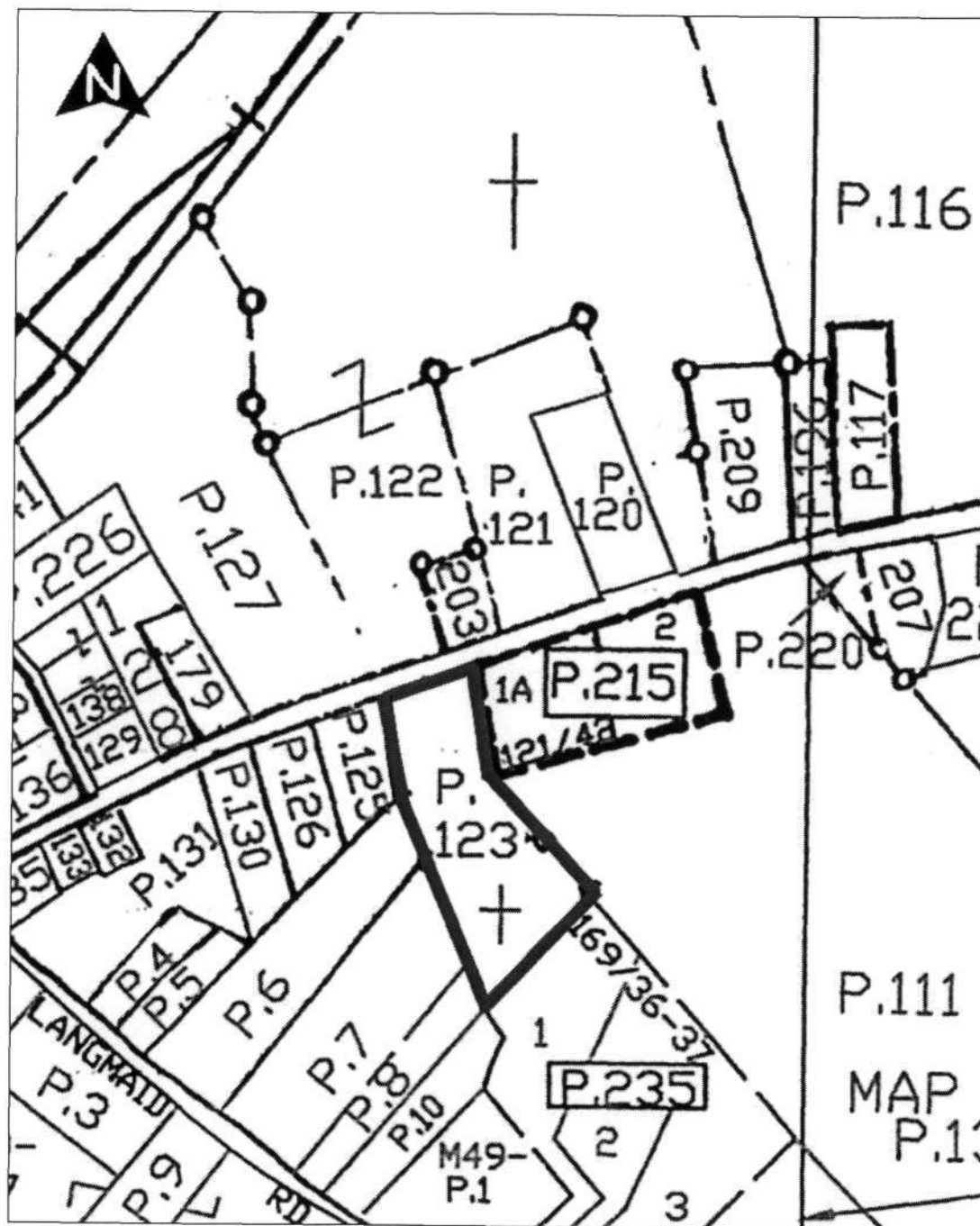
## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Roy Hampton, Senior Architectural Historian and Heather Kenney, Architectural Historian		
organization	Hardlines Design Company	date	06/07/2007
street & number	4608 Indianola Ave.	telephone	614-784-8733
city or town	Columbus	state	OH

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



WO-565, Bowen Cemetery, Newark, Worcester County, Resource Sketch Map-Tax Map 40, Parcel 123



WO-565, Bowen Cemetery, Newark, Worcester County, Ninepin Branch Quad



Inventory No. WD-565

Bowen Cemetery

Worcester County, Maryland

Heather Kenney

May 29, 2007

MD SHPO

Northwest corner of cemetery looking southeast.

#1 of 3





Inventory No. WD-565

Bowen Cemetery

Worcester County, Maryland

Heather Kenney

May 29, 2007

MD SHPO

Northeast corner of Cemetery looking southwest.

#2 of 3



Inventory No. WD-565

Bowen Cemetery

Worcester County, Maryland

Heather Kenney

May 29, 2007

MD SHPO

Detail of carved headstones in the northeast quadrant of the cemetery looking east.

#3 of 3